

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the Abstract as originally filed by substituting the following Abstract as set forth below.

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Techniques for maintaining version compatibility between a first module and one or more interacting modules that interact with the first module through an interface. Stored mapping maps instances of a data structure describing the interface at corresponding release times with corresponding version numbers for the first module. A second version number is automatically developed for a second module of the interacting modules based on the mapping. Compatibility is determined based on a first version number for the first module and the second version number for the second module. These techniques allow the developer of the central module to provide the developers of the interacting modules with a tool to automatically assign version numbers to the interacting module being developed. Automatic assignment of version numbers avoids the tedium and errors associated with manual methods. Furthermore, the automated methods not only ensure compatibility but also discover compatibility with the earliest core module.